TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
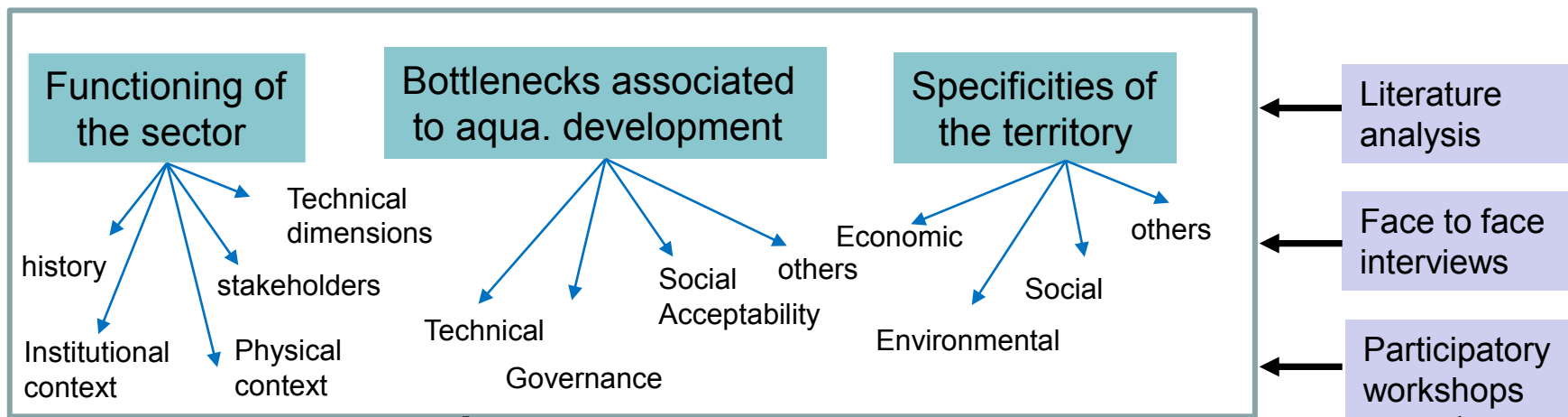## Social Challenges

Presenter

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(1) **Aquaculture challenges** from the social perspective

✓ Lack of aquaculture development (failure or national plans of aquaculture development 2014-2020) : key sector into the BG Strategy

✓ Many factors of inefficiencies including **SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY** (The Future of European Aquaculture - EATiP 2012, AQUAMED project, COFASP Workshop 07/2015)

✓ Myopia about Social issues of aquaculture
- ("bad" perception) awareness issue
- communication solution

✓ Governance issues are not enough properly addressed

✓ Update of the Strategic Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of EU Aquaculture (General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, WK 13293/2019 INIT)
- ✓ Early involvement of local stakeholders, greater acceptability
- ✓ Creation of synergies with other sectors
- ✓ Integrating local communities in the development of the aquaculture sector
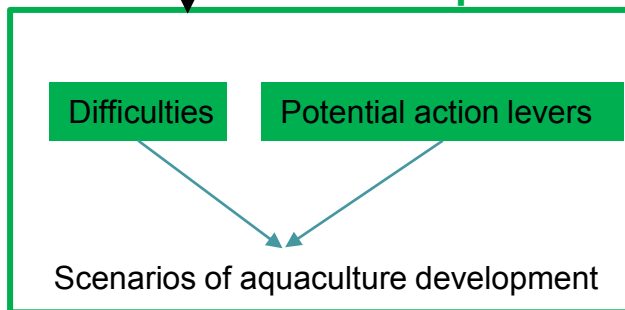
(2) Innovative solutions : Participatory Approach to evaluate the Social Acceptability

Steps of the fieldwork
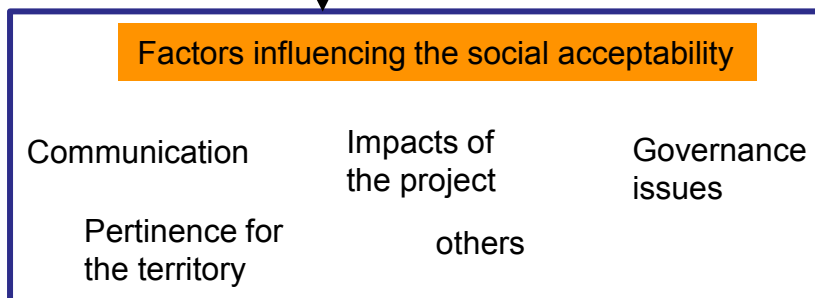
1st step of the diagnosis

Functioning of the sector
- history
- Technical dimensions
- stakeholders
- Institutional context
- Physical context

Bottlenecks associated to aqua. development
- Technical
- Governance
- Social Acceptability
- others

Specificities of the territory
- Economic
- Social
- Environmental
- others

Literature analysis

Face to face interviews

Participatory workshops

2nd step of the diagnosis

1st analytical work

Difficulties | Potential action levers

Scenarios of aquaculture development

2nd analytical work

Factors influencing the social acceptability
- Communication
- Impacts of the project
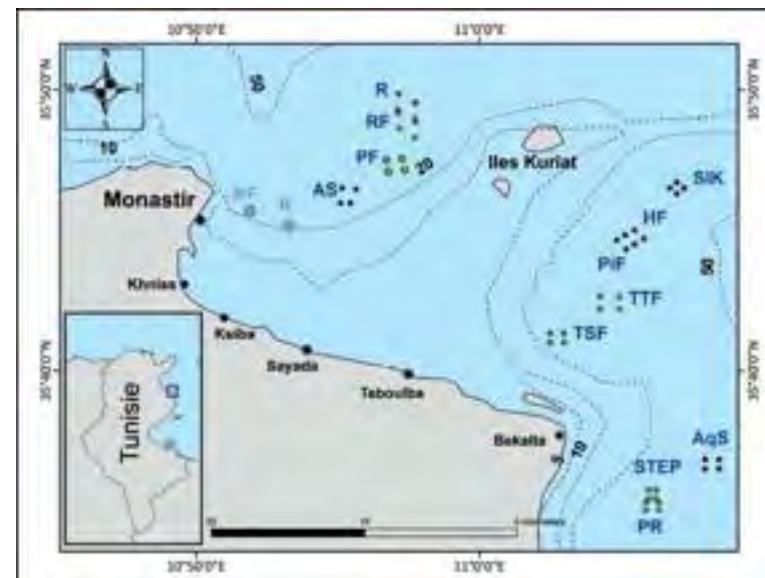- Governance issues
- Pertinence for the territory
- others

Action levers
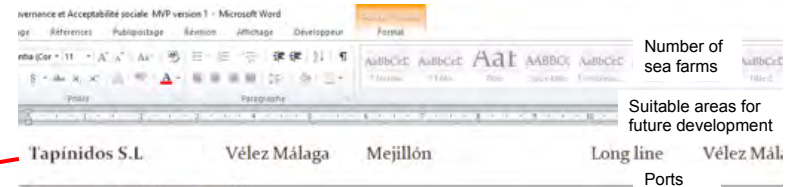
Sustainable projects

Work on local case studies

- *Tunisian case study (Bay of Monastir)*

  - *Academic exercise with the collaboration of local institutions and research*

  - *Understand factors of SA*

  - *Explore scenarios of Aq. develop.*

Map of the aquaculture sites in the Bay of Monastir

- *Spanish Case study: Andalusia plan of aquaculture development (focus in Malaga)*

  - *Accompany an institutional process : regional plan of aquaculture development (no social dimensions, high costs, efficiency)*
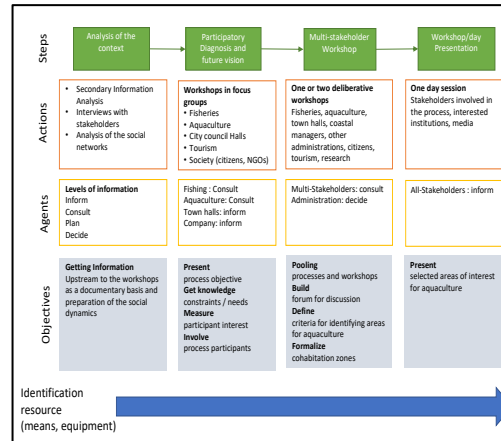
- Participatory process with strong involvement (including from the fishery sector)

- Stability but potential social opposition to aquaculture (develop. under conditions) : Transparency, distribution of benefits, environment impacts

- Need to focus on governance mechanisms and to adapt the project to the social processes of the territory in order to promote the development of acceptable projects.

- The work with stakeholders in Monastir Bay highlighted that **consultation, the adoption of a systemic vision and transparency are key elements in the social acceptability** issues on which it is important to focus.

Some key results (Spanish case study)

❖ After being approved, a participatory programme has been modified (simplified)

❖ Problems (more directive implementation, political dependence, external issues

❖ The process is driven by the main political objectives (Plan to build)

❖ Strong opposition from fishermen (no trust, economic viability, etc.)

❖ Timing of concertation in local territories is long **vs** short deadlines of administrative plans (if no trust, no SA, … "1 step up and 2 steps back")

❖ The process is on standby and probably finished (covid-19 context)

❖ No institutional conditions for social concertation (only strong engagement of the local agency staff)

✓ Institutional good conditions conditions

  ✓ Integrated management (e.g. fishery-aquaculture)

  ✓ Create the frameworks for social debate and consensus

  ✓ Reallocation of means to public agencies (facilitators, budget, social scientists…) rather than only focus on technical issues or technical innovation

✓ Move from regional-national planning to a local shared vision : role of aquaculture in a local territory

✓ Time : social debate and planning require a long time (administrative pressure to quickly finish the next planning)

Some final recommendations

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Analysis of local contexts, stakes and social issues	vs	Projects developed "ex nihilo" without insights on local integration (technical, of course, but also social)
Integration of stakeholders and citizens at the right moment of decision-making processes (as far upstream as possible)	vs	Information campaigns dating from the thirties ("it's good for you, do not worry, we take care of everything, it's our job")
Sincerity of concerted action	vs	Processes of "technical administrative concertation" deployed when everything is already decided
Take the time of the social dialogue	vs	Accelerate decision-making
The cost of not realizing projects because of their social unacceptability	vs	The cost of an accompanying approach to improve the legitimacy of the project